

CLAIMS

sub 1

Claim 1. An article of furniture having a top surface and an opening defined in said top surface; a receptacle unit mounted in said opening in said top surface; said receptacle unit comprising a top and at least one sidewall extending downwardly from said top, said at least one sidewall having at least one receptacle defined therein; and means for selectively displacing said receptacle unit between a retracted position in which said top of said receptacle unit is substantially planar with said top surface of said article of furniture, and an extended position in which said at least one receptacle in said at least one sidewall of said receptacle unit is elevated above the top surface of said article of furniture.

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Claim 2. The ^{improvement} ~~article of furniture~~ as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said receptacle unit is oriented and displaceable in a direction which is ~~substantially~~ perpendicular to the top surface of said article of furniture.

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Claim 3. The article of furniture as claimed in Claim 1 further including a plurality of sidewalls, each of said sidewalls having at least one receptacle therein, each of said sidewalls being recessed inwardly relative to the outer surface of the top of said receptacle unit.

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Claim 4. The ^{improvement} ~~article of furniture~~ as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said top of said receptacle unit and said opening in said top surface of said article of furniture are dimensioned such that a gap space is defined between ^{an} ~~the~~ outer surface of the top of the receptacle unit and the ~~said~~ top surface of said article of furniture when said receptacle unit is in its retracted position in said opening in said top surface.

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Claim 5. The ^{improvement} ~~article of furniture~~ as claimed in Claim 4 wherein said gap space is of sufficient dimension to permit a transmission line coupled to said receptacle unit to extend through said gap space when said receptacle unit is in its retracted position in said opening.

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Claim 6. The ^{improvement} ~~article of furniture~~ as claimed in Claim 1 further including means for resiliently biasing said receptacle unit into said extended position, and cooperating releasable locking means for opposing said means for resiliently biasing for retaining said receptacle unit in said retracted position.

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Claim 7. The ^{improvement} ~~article of furniture~~ as claimed in Claim 4 further including means for at least partially covering said gap space between said receptacle unit and said top surface of said article of furniture to prevent articles from falling into said gap space when said receptacle unit is in said retracted position.

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Claim 8. The ^{improvement}~~article of furniture~~ as claimed in Claim 7 wherein said means for covering includes a brush.

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Claim 9. The ^{improvement}~~article of furniture~~ as claimed in Claim 7 wherein said means for covering includes a screen.

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Claim 10. The ^{improvement}~~article of furniture~~ as claimed in Claim 7 wherein said means for covering is mounted to said top surface of said article of furniture and extends into said opening defined therein.

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Claim 11. The ^{improvement}~~article of furniture~~ as claimed in Claim 7 wherein said means for covering is mounted to said top of said receptacle unit and is carried by said receptacle unit as it is displaced between said extended and retracted positions.

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Claim 12. The ^{improvement}~~article of furniture~~ as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said receptacle unit has a plurality of sidewalls, each of said sidewalls carrying at least one receptacle.

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Claim 13. The ^{improvement}~~article of furniture~~ as claimed in Claim 12 wherein said receptacle unit has a number of said sidewalls corresponding to the number of sides of said article of furniture, said receptacle unit being oriented relative to said sides of said article of furniture, such that a different sidewall of said receptacle unit faces a different side of said article of furniture.

a Claim 14. ^{improvement} ~~The article of furniture~~ as claimed in Claim 13 wherein said receptacle unit is generally rectangular shaped.

a Claim 15. ^{improvement} ~~The article of furniture~~ as claimed in Claim 13 wherein said receptacle unit is generally squared shaped.

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Claim 16. An article of furniture having top surface and an opening defined in said top surface; a receptacle unit mounted in said opening in said top surface; said receptacle unit comprising a top and a plurality of sidewalls extending downwardly from said top; each of said sidewalls being recessed inwardly relative to the top of said receptacle unit; and means for selectively displacing said receptacle unit between a retracted position in which said top of said receptacle unit is ~~substantially~~ planar with said top surface of said article of furniture, and an extended position in which at least a portion of each of said plurality of sidewalls of said receptacle unit is elevated above the top surface of said article of furniture.

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Claim 17. ~~The article of furniture as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said plurality of sidewalls of said receptacle unit are equal in number to the number of sides of said article of furniture, and said ^Breceptacle unit is oriented relative to said article of furniture such that each of said plurality of sidewalls of said receptacle unit faces a different one of said sides of said article of furniture.~~

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B) Claim 18. The article of furniture as claimed in Claim 16 wherein said receptacle unit and said top surface of said article of furniture are oriented such that a gap is defined between the entire periphery of B said receptacle unit and said top surface of said article of furniture when said receptacle unit is in said retracted position received in said opening in said top surface of said article of furniture.

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Claim 19. An article of furniture having a top surface and an opening defined in said top surface; a receptacle unit mounted in said opening in said top surface; said receptacle unit comprising a top and at least one sidewall extending downwardly from said top, said at least one sidewall having at least one receptacle defined therein; means for selectively displacing said receptacle unit between a retracted position in which said top of said receptacle unit is ~~substantially~~ planar with said top surface of said article of furniture, and an extended position in which said at least one receptacle in said at least one sidewall of said receptacle unit is elevated above the top surface of said article of furniture; and a housing mounted to an underside of said top surface of said article of furniture, said housing having an open top and being substantially aligned with said opening defined in said top surface of said article of furniture so as to receive said receptacle unit in said housing when said receptacle unit is in said retracted position.

Claim 20. The article of furniture as claimed in Claim 19 wherein said housing includes means for coupling said receptacle unit to an external power source.

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